

National Drought Management Authority
KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN; MARCH 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



March EW PHASE

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	ALERT	WORSENING
AGRO-PASTORAL	ALERT	WORSENING
MIXED FARMING	ALERT	WORSENING
COUNTY	ALERT	WORSENING

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
3-monthly VCI	27.86	>35	
State of water	Stressed	Adequate	
Pasture condition	Poor	Good	
Browse condition	Fair		
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
Livestock body condition	Good-Fair	Good	
Daily household milk production	2.3 litres	>5 litres	
Livestock Migration	Migration	None	
Access Indicators	Observed Value	LTA	
Terms of trade	81	47	
Daily household milk Consumption	1.6 litres	4 litres	
Distance to water sources	Livestock	6.4 km	4.1 km
	Household	7.5 km	4.6 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal Range	
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	3.25	<10	
125mm <MUAC <135mm	6.7%	<10.5%	

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ Normally the County receives long rains starting from Mid-March. This year, the County did not receive any rains in March.
- ✓ In March, the County had a moderate vegetation deficit with a deteriorating trend.

Production Indicators

- ✓ Livestock body condition ranged from good to fair with deteriorating trend.
- Intra – migration reported in Matapato, Mbirikani, Entonet, Rombo, Chyulu and Kenyawa Poka.

Access indicators

- ✓ Distance to water sources for both domestic and livestock were longer than the long term averages.
- ✓ Although the TOT was above the long term average, it was worth noting that it was fast declining.
- ✓ Milk consumption was below normal at this time of the year.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ More than half of households in Kajiado West consumed poor diet as a result of lack of food or money to buy food.
- ✓ The risk of malnutrition of under-fives in Kajiado West was higher than the long-term average for this time of the year.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvest ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH food stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High calving rate ▪ Milk yields increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvest ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH food stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting ▪ weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Normally, the County receives the long rains starting from second or third dekad of March.
- By the end of March this year, the County had not received rains (Figure 1).

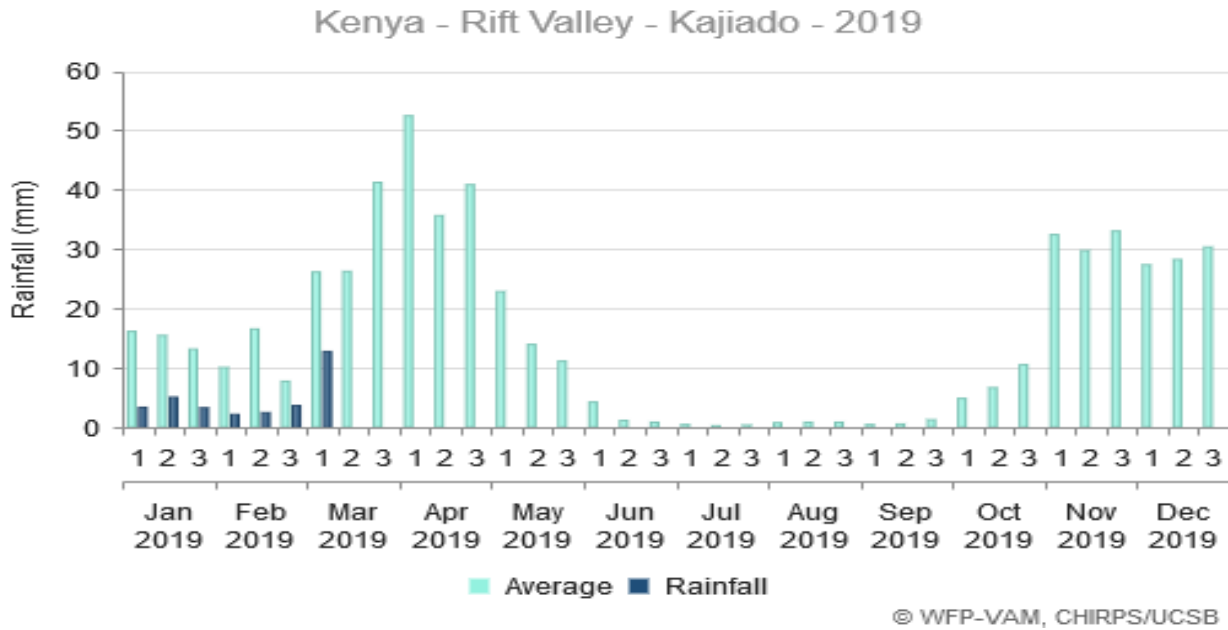


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado, March 2019

2.0 VEGETATION AND WATER CONDITIONS

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The vegetation condition was on a deteriorating trend since November last year due to poor performance of 2018 short rains. By February this year, Kajiado West had a moderate vegetation deficit. By March the entire County was in moderate vegetation deficit (Figure 2) with a vegetation condition index of 27.86 compared to 43.05 in February.

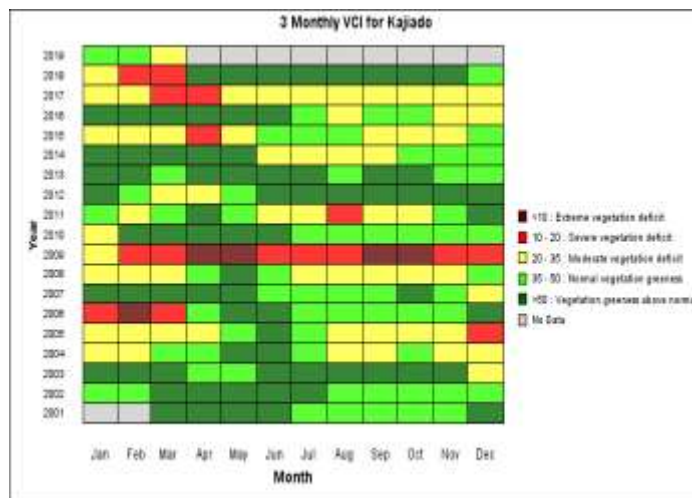


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI matrix; Kajiado y, 2001-2019

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- In March pasture was poor in most parts of the County compared to February when it was fair.
- Pasture was almost depleted in Magadi, Ewaso Kedong, Mosiro wards and South Lenkism and Mbirikani wards. These areas did not receive meaningful rainfall during the short rain season.
- Browse was fair across the County and was expected to last for the next one to two months.

2.3 Water Sources

- 21 out of 25 key informants (84%) reported boreholes/shallow wells as the main water source among the three commonly used water sources in March (Figure 3).

- Although this is the normal water source for this time of the year, high concentration of livestock and human beings at the strategic boreholes such as Emotoroki, Emampuri, Torosei, Oltiasika, Long'osua, Oloolakir, Olkolojoseki and Oloibelbel exposes them to risk of disease outbreak.

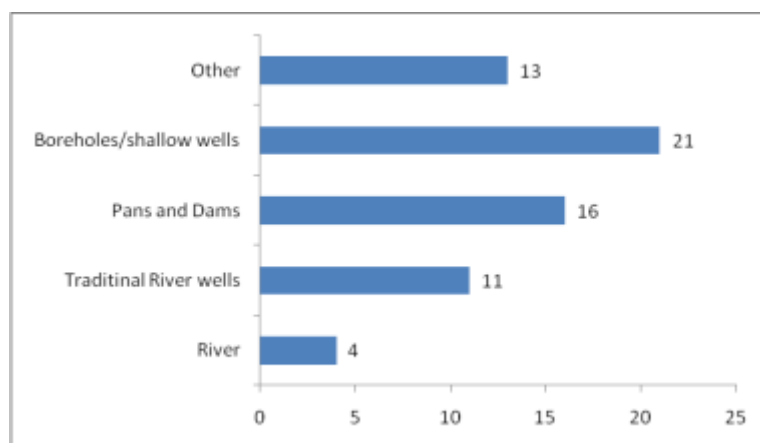


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, March 2019

These boreholes risk breaking down as well.

- Areas such as Nkunchu, Injekita, Naserian are served by pans that have since dried out. These areas are experiencing critical water shortage.

2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average distance that individuals covered to get water for domestic use reduced slightly from 7.2 km in February to 6.4 km in March (Figure 4). This was probably due to rehabilitation of strategic water points by County Government. On the other hand, households depending on water vendors may have increased between February and March.

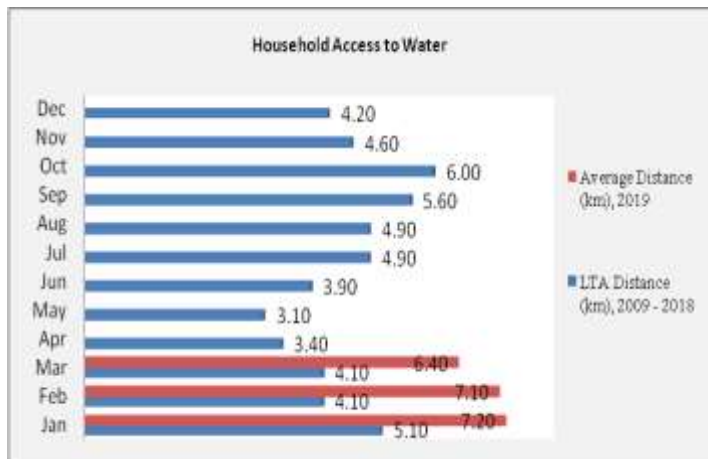


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado, 2009-2019

- In some areas such as Nkunchu people were travelling about 15 km to and from water sources while in Magadi they were now relying on water vendors to get water for domestic use.
- The cost of water ranged between Ksh. 5 (at the source) to Ksh. 50 (from water vendors) for a 20-litre jerrican.

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

- Livestock covered a return distance of 7.5 km in March and 7.3 km in February (Figure 5).
- On average livestock cover 4.6 km to and from watering points at this time of the year.
- Livestock in Pastoral areas covered nearly 15 km to and from water points.
- In pastoral areas, livestock were watered three days in a week while in mixed farming they were water daily.

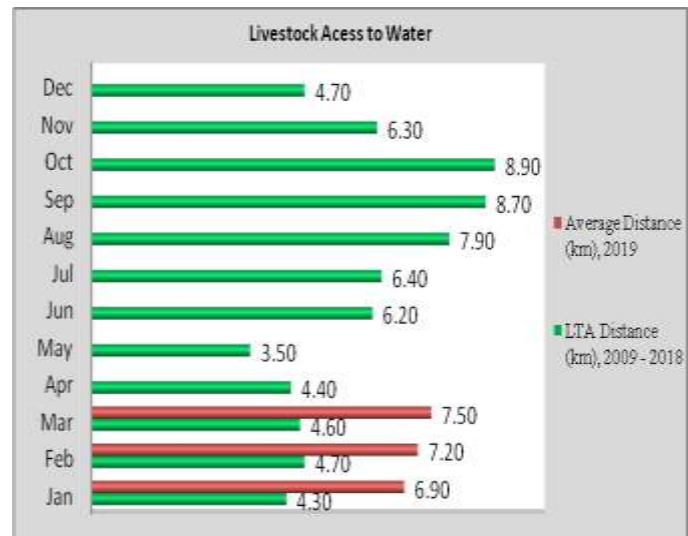


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Body condition of livestock all species ranged from good to fair with a deteriorating trend across the County. No significant livelihood variations in livestock body condition that was observed during the month.
- Deterioration of livestock body condition was majorly due to diminishing forage and water. Livestock were now covering longer distances to watering points from grazing fields. Watering frequency had also reduced.

3.2 Livestock Diseases.

- Lumpy and Skin Disease was reported in Kajiado East (Kenyawa Poka and Imaroro) and Kajiado South (Lenkism)
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) were reported across the County.

3.3 Livestock Mortalities`

- No reports of unusual livestock mortalities during the month of March.

3.4 Livestock Migration

- Several livestock migration patterns were observed in March. One, cattle were now moving from Matapato South to Matapato North. There were those moving from Mbirikani and Entonet to Chylu hills and to Kenya Poka. Also livestock from Rombo were moving to Chylu hills.

3.5 Milk Production

- The average household milk production remained low at 2.3 litres per day. In pastoral areas, the average milk production per day was 1.9 litre and 2.9 litres in Agro-pastoral
- In a normal year, household milk production per day in March is 5 litres per day.
- Milk production has declined significantly in the last three years compared to the long term average production due to reduction in Tropical Livestock Unit as a result of 2015/17 drought.

3.6 Rain-fed Crop Production

- Most farmers were now preparing their lands for planting for the long rains season.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Prices of Livestock

4.1.1 Prices of Cattle

- The average market price of cattle was stable at Ksh. 31,000 for a medium size bull in February and March (Figure 6).
- Stability of cattle prices during February - March period despite deteriorating body condition was probably due to low supply of cattle in the market in March against the demand for the same.
- In Pastoral West, a medium size bull was selling as low as Ksh. 24,200
- The average market price of a medium size bull for the last three previous years for similar period of the year is Ksh. 16,500.

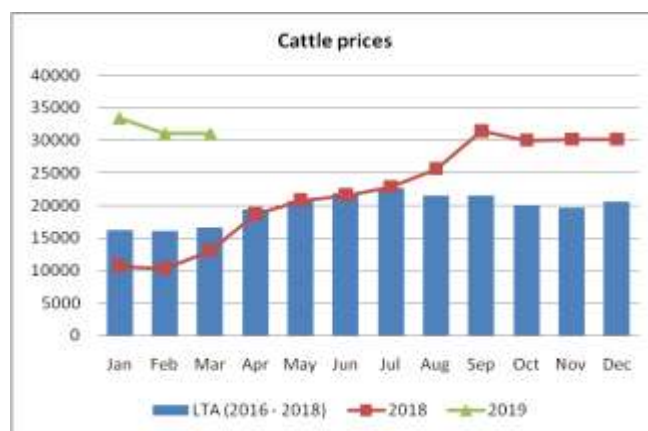


Figure 6: Cattle prices; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

4.1.2 Goats Prices

- The average market price of a three-year old goat was stable between February and March this year at Ksh. 4,000 and Ksh. 3,970 respectively (Figure 7).
- In Ewuaso (Pastoral west) a three-year old goat was selling at Ksh. 2,830.
- Like cattle, the stability of goats' prices was probably due to low supply of goats in the market in March against the demand for the same.
- The average price of a three-year old goat for the last three years is Ksh.2,660.



Figure 7: Goats' prices; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

- In March, maize was now retailing at Ksh. 49 from Ksh 45 per kilogram in February (Figure 8).
- In Pastoral West (Mosiro, Ewuaso and Magadi) a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh 60 while in

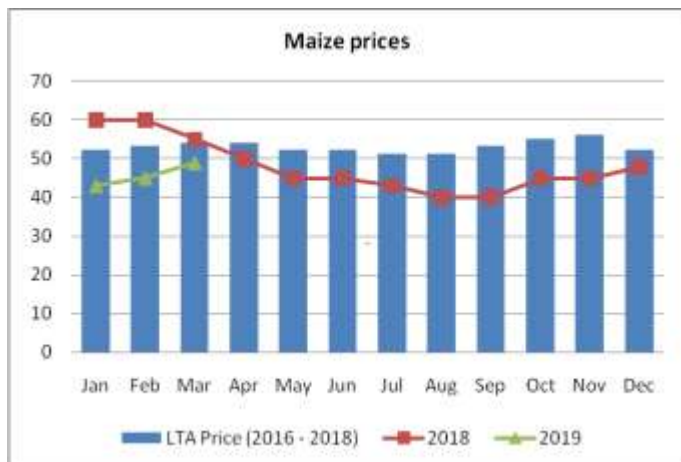


Figure 8: Average prices of maize; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

Mixed farming areas of Kimana maize was selling at aKsh 30 per kilogram.

- Increase in price of maize might be due to low yields of the crop from the previous short rains season.
- The average market price of maize for the past three years is Ksh.54 per kilogram.

4.2.2 Beans Prices

- The market price of beans was stable between February and March at Ksh. 92 and Ksh. 90 per kilogram respectively (Figure 9).

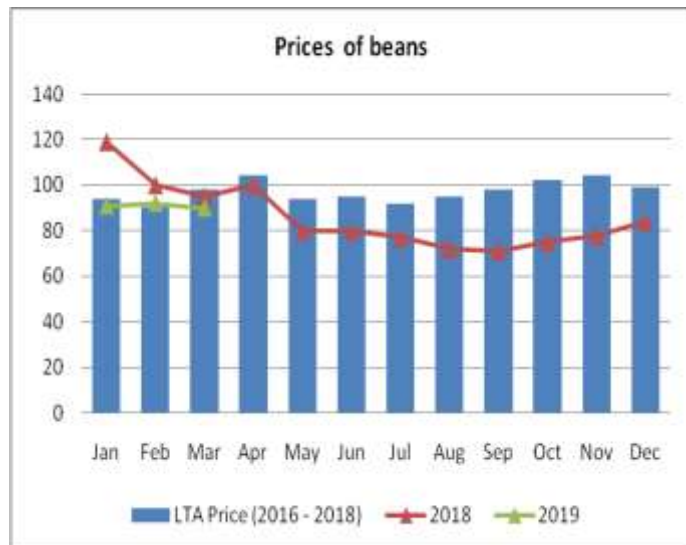


Figure 9: Average price of beans; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

- In Pastoral west (Ewuaso, Magadi and Mosiro) a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 120 and Ksh. 80 in Mixed farming areas of Kimana. This difference in prices would probably be explained by difference in accessibility. Kajiado west is poorly accessible.
- The average price of beans for the last three years is Ksh.98.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The farm-gate price of milk ranged between Ksh. 50 to Ksh. 60 per litre for the last four consecutive months with no livelihood variations.

4.4 Terms of Trade

- Although the price of goats remained stable between February and March pastoralist power to access food declined. The terms of trade (TOT) reduced from 89 kilograms of maize per goat to 81 kilograms of maize per goat in March (Figure 10).
- The average TOT for the last three years for March is 47 kilograms of maize per goat.

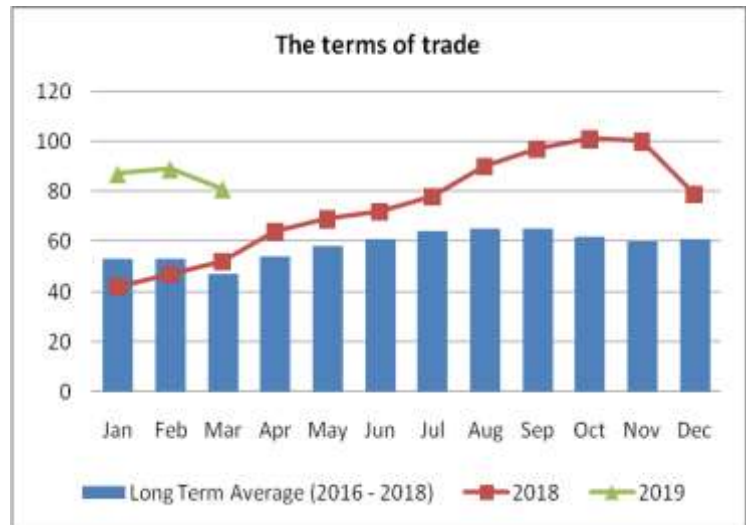


Figure 10: Trends in ToT; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, NUTRITIONAL STATUS AND DISEASE

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The household daily milk consumption in March averaged 1.6 litres and two litres in February.
- In a normal year, household milk consumption per day in March range between 3 litres to 4 litres.
- Reduction in milk production this time of the year was occasioned by low production.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Thirty three percent of the households in pastoral areas were consuming poor diet in March (Figure 11).
- Pastoral west was highly hit with more than half of the households consuming poor diet.

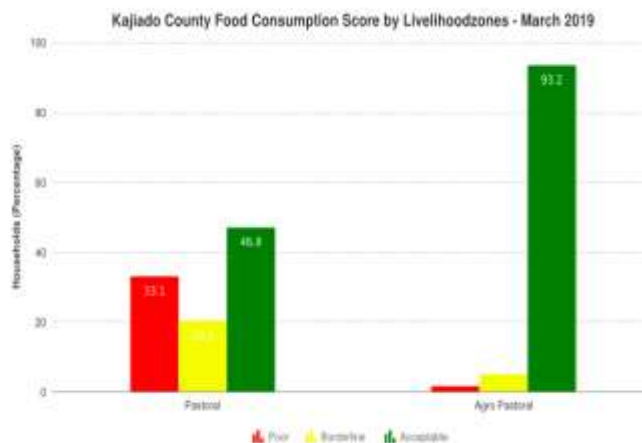


Figure 11: Food consumption score; Kajiado, March 2019

5.3 Coping Strategies

- In February and March, households that lacked enough food or money to buy food mainly reduced the size of meals they consumed per day while others consumed less preferred food.
- The coping strategy index in pastoral areas was 3.8 and 2.3 in agro-pastoral.

5.4 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- Risk of malnutrition of under-fives was low and stable for the last three months (Figure 12). The

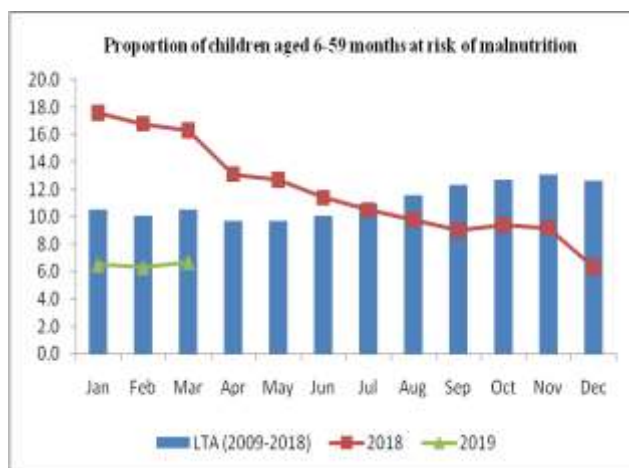


Figure 12: Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6 - 59 months; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

proportion of children aged 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition in March was 6.7% compared to the long term average of 10.5%.

- Under-fives in Pastoral west were more affected with 9.4% of them at risk of malnutrition.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

With delayed long rains, shorter rainy season is almost evident. This would probably influence negatively the food security situation in the County for the next six months;

- ✓ The County was currently experiencing water stress
- ✓ Minimal improvement in forage was expected and thus outmigration will probably continue or start earlier than usual after the season.
- ✓ Livestock productivity was likely to deteriorate further hence limiting food access especially to pastoral households. The risk of malnutrition among under-fives was thus expected to increase in these areas.

6.2 Ongoing Interventions

- ✓ Rehabilitation of Paranai, Oloibelbel and Uswa boreholes: - *by County Government*
- ✓ Water trucking to schools and communities in Kajiado West and Central:- *by County Government*
- ✓ Livestock vaccination against Foot & Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease:- *by County Government*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- ✓ Integrated outreaches in Kajiado West, Central and South:- *Action by County Government and partners*
- ✓ Prepositioning of nutrition supplies: - *Action by County Government and partners*
- ✓ Rehabilitation of Olkolojoseki borehole: - *Action by National Drought Management Authority and County Government*
- ✓ Upscale livestock vaccination against Lumpy and Skin Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) especially along the migratory corridors:- *by County Government and partners*